sonal growth and leadership experiences; most members are called to serve in quorum or group leadership positions from time to time. Quorum presidencies are responsible for planning and conducting quorum meetings and activities, teaching quorum members their duties, and extending fellowship and support to each quorum member (see LAY PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP).

Three other priesthood quorums preside over the entire Church. The highest is the Quorum of the FIRST PRESIDENCY, composed of the PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH and his counselors. The second is the QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOTLES, composed of twelve apostles, or special witnesses, who form a quorum “equal in authority and power” to the Presidency (D&C 107:23–24); however, that power is exercised fully only with the dissolution of the First Presidency, which occurs upon the death of the President. The third quorum of priesthood bearers who have Churchwide responsibilities and authority is the SEVENTY. Seventies are organized into quorums that do not exceed seventy members each.

ORIGINS OF QUORUM ORGANIZATION. Shortly after being chosen and ordained, the Twelve Apostles gathered in Kirtland, Ohio, on March 28, 1835, before departing to the eastern states on missions. They asked the Prophet Joseph Smith to inquire of the Lord concerning their duties. In response, the Lord gave an important revelation on the priesthood and the relationship of the respective quorums to each other and to the Church (see DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS: SECTION 107).

As years passed and circumstances changed, the need arose for a reorganization of the priesthood. In 1877, Brigham Young effected such a reorganization (Hartley, 1979). Some of the main results of this historic action included (1) moving members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles out of stake presidencies into full-time service as General Authorities; (2) making stakes independent of one another and placing them under their own locally supervised priesthood quorums; (3) modifying the role of then-existing seventies quorums; (4) filling up elders quorums; and (5) filling Aaronic Priesthood quorums with youth. Later (1908–1922), under the direction of presidents Joseph F. Smith and Heber J. Grant, a specially appointed General Priesthood Committee instituted Churchwide priesthood changes and reorganization that eventually led to the present system (Hartley, 1973).

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PRIMARY

The Primary is an organized program of religious instruction and activity in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for children from eighteen months of age until their twelfth birthdays. Its purpose is to teach children the gospel of Jesus Christ and help them learn to live it.

ORIGINS. In the summer of 1878, Aurelia Spencer Rogers, a Farmington, Utah, mother, who felt the need for a united effort to help parents teach their children the gospel, voiced her concerns to Eliza R. Snow, president of the RELIE福 SOCIETY of the Church: “Could there not be an organization for little boys, and have them trained to make better men?” (Rogers, p. 208). Sister Snow presented the matter to President John Taylor, and he authorized establishment of the organization.

Under the direction of local Church leaders, the first Primary was organized on August 11, 1878, with Aurelia Rogers as president. On August 25, the first Primary meeting was held in Farmington, where 224 boys and girls met to be taught obedience, faith in God, prayer, punctuality, and good manners. The girls were included to make the singing “sound as well as it should” (Rogers, p. 209).

EARLY PRIMARIES. Within a short time, more Primaries were organized throughout the territory. By the mid-1880s, a Primary group had been organized in nearly every LDS settlement. The women of the Church were given the responsibility to organize and administer the Primary program. The bulk of the weekly program was devoted to songs, poems, and activities presented by children. Primary general officers did not take a controlling leadership role until the 1890s, and curricular materials were few, although most Pri-
The general officers of the Primary, 1896–1905. Louie B. Felt, president (center); Aurelia S. Rogers (standing, left); May Anderson, secretary (standing, right); Lillie T. Freeze, first vice president (front, left); Josephine R. West, second vice president (front, right).

Primaries used a hymnbook, a tune book, and a catechism of Old and New Testament questions and answers prepared by Eliza R. Snow in 1881. In many localities, children remained in Primary through their early teens and often served as Primary secretaries.

1890–1939. During this period, Primary general officers assumed the leading role in Primary development. Louie B. Felt (1880–1925), the first Primary general president, and her counselor and successor, May Anderson (1925–1939), sought professional training in education. Exposed to the ideas of progressive education, they initiated curriculum development and teacher training. General officers encouraged local Primaries to establish age-graded classes with lessons appropriate to the children's development. They began publication of the Children's Friend (1902), at first with lessons and instructions for leaders and, within a few years, with stories, handiwork, and music for children. In 1913 the Primary established a children's ward in the Grove's Latter-day Saint Hospital in Salt Lake City, the first in a series of Primary efforts to provide pediatric hospital care. When religion classes, instituted in 1890 for weekday religious instruction for children, were discontinued in 1929, the Primary assumed greater responsibility for children's spiritual education. Lessons were scheduled three weeks each month, and activities were reduced to one per month, except during the summer program. Stake boards held monthly training meetings for ward leaders; general board members visited regularly.

1940–1974. Spiritual education remained the focus of Primary programs under presidents May Green Hinckley (1940–1943) and Adele Cannon Howells (1943–1951). Mission lessons were written for the growing number of Primaries in Church missions throughout the world and, during World War II, for the hundreds of home and neighborhood Primaries developed because of wartime travel restrictions. Under President LaVern Watts Parmley (1951–1974), the Primary lessons were made applicable to all units in the growing
Louie B. Felt (1850–1928), first general president of the Church organization for children, the Primary Association. She was sustained in 1880 and served for forty-five years. She initiated the Children’s Friend magazine in January 1902, established a hospital fund in 1911, and oversaw the construction of a hospital for children in 1922. Courtesy Utah State Historical Society.

In 1975, made possible some of the most important contributions that the Primary has made to the lives of individual children. In 1952 the Primary was given responsibility for Cub Scouting for LDS boys eight, nine, and ten years of age and Boy Scouting for eleven-year-old boys. Since that time, a close working relationship has existed between the Primary and the Boy Scouts of America. Primary is also involved with Scouts in Canada, throughout the United Kingdom, and in New Zealand.

Until 1952, women could serve only as den mothers in Cub Scouting. That year the Primary obtained permission from the National Scout Committee for women to serve as leaders of the eleven-year-old Scouts. Since then, women have become registered Scouters and serve on local and national boards.


In the consolidated Sunday meeting schedule (1980), Primary meetings were moved from midweek to Sunday, junior Sunday Schools were discontinued, and Primary was given responsibility for all formal religious classroom instruction of children in the Church. With that change, callings to teach in the Primary began to be extended to men as well as women, although only women serve in Primary presidencies. Weekday activities involving all Primary children were reduced to four per year, and spiritual education was further emphasized. Children were encouraged to read the scriptures regularly, and Primary lessons taught gospel principles from their scriptural foundations. Music and activities culminating in the yearly children’s sacrament meeting presentation (e.g., “The Book of Mormon—A Witness of Jesus Christ,” 1988; “I Am a Child of God,” 1989; and “I Belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” 1990) focused on scriptures and gospel principles.
CURRENT STRUCTURE. As of 1990, Primaries serve over a million and a half children with lessons taught in many languages. Primary meetings are held each Sunday for approximately an hour and a half. A nursery program is provided for children between eighteen months and three years of age. Children between the ages of three and eleven meet as a group under the direction of the ward Primary presidency. The children offer prayers, read from the scriptures, and give short gospel-related talks. They learn gospel principles through role playing, readers' theaters, choral readings, buzz sessions, panel discussions, and other activities. They also learn and sing music selected from a children's songbook.

The children divide according to age for small group classroom sessions. Age-appropriate lesson materials are selected to help children grow in understanding gospel principles; learn that the Heavenly Father and Jesus love them; and prepare to be baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, and keep their BAPTISMAL COVENANTS. Classroom presentations and discussions help girls prepare to fulfill their roles as righteous young women and to live lives of service. Classes help boys prepare to receive the PRIESTHOOD and be worthy to use this power to bless the lives of others.

In addition to Sunday Primary meetings, twice-a-month weekday activities are held for ten- and eleven-year-old boys and girls. In some countries, eleven-year-old boys use Scouting activities for their weekday activities. A quarterly activity is

The Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City was completed in 1953, and its size was doubled in 1966. Construction of the hospital culminated a series of Primary efforts to provide pediatric hospital care begun in 1913. Annual "Penny Days" and contributions by Primary children on their birthdays supported charity care at the facility. The Church transferred ownership of its hospitals to a private nonprofit organization in 1975. Courtesy University of Utah Libraries.
Children in the Trollhättan, Sweden, Primary (1990). Singing time is a standard part of Primary meetings. Songs are usually selected from the Children's Songbook or the Church hymnal. While most have gospel themes, some are just for fun. Courtesy Peggy Jellinghausen.

Michaelene P. Grassli served as second counselor in the general presidency of the Primary from 1980 until she was sustained as president in 1988.

The Primary’s mission, the impetus for its historical development, and the purpose for its current structure are summarized in the scripture that has become the Primary’s theme: “All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children” (3 Ne. 22:13).

[See also Auxiliary Organizations; Children, Roles of.]

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PROBATION

See: Disciplinary Procedures